

Upcoming elections in Zambia - ALERT

Warden Message
US Embassy Lusaka
August 31, 2006

This message is intended for all American citizens visiting or residing in Zambia. Since some people may not have provided e-mail addresses to the Consular Section, I would like to ask all wardens to distribute the following notice to all American citizens within your registration zone as soon as possible. Thank you.

Zambian general elections are scheduled for September 28, 2006. In the period leading up to elections, political parties will hold rallies and demonstrations throughout the country. The political parties have been unanimous in their calls for a peaceful electoral process. However, in the past, sporadic violence has occurred during electoral periods in Zambia. Such incidents can happen spontaneously and without warning.

The U.S. Embassy advises Americans living and traveling in Zambia to keep informed of events related to the elections. Dates and times for scheduled public rallies and demonstrations are generally advertised in advance in the local press. The Embassy provides the following general security advice regarding the upcoming electoral period:

- Keep informed of all events planned in an around your area.
- Avoid political gatherings such as demonstrations and rallies.
- Similarly, avoid all large gatherings, as these may occur without prior planning and problems could develop spontaneously.
- Be aware that government buildings, universities, monuments and other general meeting places can become focal points for problems.
- Avoid partisan activities, or behavior that could be construed as partisan.
- On election day, stay well away from public polling places.

Americans who are arriving in Zambia, either to stay or to visit, are encouraged to register with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy. For more detailed information about the security situation in a particular area, call the Regional Security Office at (260)-1-250-955, extension 2266.

For the latest general security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy is located at the corner of Independence and United Nations Avenues. The mailing address is P.O. Box 31617, Lusaka, Zambia. U.S. citizens may contact the American Embassy during regular work hours, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5 PM, and on Friday from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM by dialing 260-1-250-955. For after-hours emergencies involving American citizens, please dial 260-1-250-955 extension 1. The fax number is 260-1-252-225. The website is: <http://zambia.usembassy.gov>.